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Psychological science's contributions to a sustainable environment: Extending our reach to a grand challenge of society

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Abstract:

Climate change and degradation of the environment are global problems associated with many other challenges (e.g., population increases, reduction of glaciers, and loss of critical habitats). Psychological science can play a critical role in addressing these problems by fostering a sustainable environment. Multiple strategies for fostering a sustainable environment could draw from the diversity of topics and areas of specialization within psychology. Psychological research on fostering environmentally sustainable behaviors is rather well developed, as illustrated by interventions focusing on education of the public, message framing, feedback, decision making, the media, incentives and disincentives, and social marketing. Other sciences and professions as well as religion and ethics are actively involved in fostering a sustainable environment. Psychology ought to be more involved directly, systematically, and visibly to draw on our current knowledge and to have palpable impact. We would serve the world very well and in the process our discipline and profession.

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Resource Description

Communication: M

resource focus on research or methods on how to communicate or frame issues on climate change; surveys of attitudes, knowledge, beliefs about climate change

A focus of content

Communication Audience: M

audience to whom the resource is directed

Public

Other Communication Audience: Media

Exposure: M

weather or climate related pathway by which climate change affects health

Unspecified Exposure

Geographic Feature: M

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resource focuses on specific type of geography

None or Unspecified

Geographic Location: M

resource focuses on specific location

Global or Unspecified

Health Impact: M

specification of health effect or disease related to climate change exposure

General Health Impact

Intervention: M

strategy to prepare for or reduce the impact of climate change on health

A focus of content

Medical Community Engagement: ■

resource focus on how the medical community discusses or acts to address health impacts of climate change

A focus of content

Mitigation/Adaptation: **☑**

mitigation or adaptation strategy is a focus of resource

Adaptation, Mitigation

Resource Type: M

format or standard characteristic of resource

Policy/Opinion, Research Article

Timescale: M

time period studied

Time Scale Unspecified